

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

[205] A genetic locus and corresponding family of proteins associated with regulation of immune development, function, and cell survival are provided. The locus comprising the TIM family is genetically associated with immune dysfunction, including atopy, autoimmunity, inflammatory bowel disease, dysplasia, and susceptibility to blood-borne infectious diseases. Polymorphisms in the human TIM-1 gene and exposure to Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) are shown to be associated with protection from the development of atopy.